.

hiusband when they lived in the same apartment complex. She knew he was the man shed marry, but—as she says—it took her a few years to convince film. They'os survived a raft of tough times by riding out the storms together.

Another couple I know started datting in high school. They married young, and ut one point, almost separated. But with counseling, faith and a shared determination to make their relationship work, they survived and love each other more for having done it.

You don't find that kind of love in seven minutes or less. Heck,

in seven minutes or less. Heck, seven minutes is barely long enough to determine whether someone can speak in complete

someone can speak in complete sentences.

The organizers of these events will tell you it is not their intent to introduce you instantly to your life partner. But people will come into this believing that all

SINGLES MINGLE

If you want to submit an item for the Singles Mingle calendar, fax it to our Formington office (248) 477-9722 or Livonia office (248) 477-9722 or virte: Singles Mingle, Farmington Observer, 33411. Grand River, Farmington, Mi 48335. The deadline an announcement to appear in the Thursdey edition is noon Friddy.

Single Mingle dances are held selected Fridays throughout the month. For dates and locations, call the Metropoli-tan Single Professionals at (248) 851-9909.

WEST SIRE DANCES
West Side Singles hold
dances hold Friday night
dances at Burton Manor in
Livonia. For dates and locations call (734) 991-0909.

BOOK TAIK
Borders Books in Farmington
Hills hosts a book discussion
group 7:30-8:30 p.m. the second Wednesday of each
month. Call (248) 851-9909.

CARDS & DINNER

Join the Farmington Single Join the Farmington Single Professionals for euchre, pinochle and dinner from 6:80-9:30 p.m. every Monday at Crowley's Old Village Inn in downtown Farmington.

in downtown Farmington.
AFTER WORK PARTES
Metropolitan Single Professionals host "Fun and Fine
Dining "5:30-7:30 p.m. every
Thursday at restaurants
throughout the Detroit area.
To find out locations, call
(248) 851-9909. Other activities includes

ties include:

Dances hold 8 p.m.-1 p.m.,
every Friday through May 3
throughout the Detroit area.
Admission is 55 members, \$8
non-members. Call (248) 85:0990 or visit www.mspe.com
n Euchre 6:30-9:30 p.m.,
every Monday through April
at Cowley's Old Village Inn,
33338 Grand River Avo., east
of Farmington. \$5 for members, \$6
for non-members, \$6
for non-members. for non-members.

Singles from First Presbyterian Church in Northville walk through Heritage Park in Farmington Hills at 10 a.m. every Saturday.

WARD SWOLES Single Point Ministries of Single Point Ministries of Ward Presbyterian Church (30 years and older) meet at 11:30 a.m. every Sunday in Knox Hall, for followship and encouragement. Ward is located at 40000 Six Mile Road in Northville, Call (248) 374-5920. Other Ward Sin-

gles events:

Classic senior Singles Bible
Study meets 10 a.m. every Thursday.

LIGHTHOUSE CAPE

LEMINOUSE CAPE
Single Point Lighthouse Cafe
(coffee house) will be hold 710 p.m., the fourth Friday of
every month at Knoz Hall in
Ward Presbyterian Church.
Free child care is available.
Call (248) 374-5920

Call (248) 374-5920
singles dance 7-10:30 p.m.
every Wednesday at the
Sandtrap, 36736 Five Mile,
Livonia, Outdoor events, door
prizes, snacks, Admission \$5.
Visit the group's Web site at
www.michigan singles.com

the same, because so many of us will do almost anything to avoid living alone. We forget the important stuff, like relationships sometimes take hard work, perseverance, forgiveness, compassion, the sacrifice of pride and a tenacity of spirit. And most of all, they take what we have so little of these days – time. Time to get to know someone, time to see whether the spark of recognition means something more than a conflagration of pheromenes.

I read somewhere that men

I read somewhere that men

and women are in the middle of a gender war these days, that lasting relationships are difficult if not impossible to maintain because of our changing roles. We don't need each other any more to survive. Marringe, once considered an indispensable social expectation, is now option-al.

Divorce has created a group of second-wave singles who have had their children and now must search again for True Love in the middle of their lives. Let's face it: We want to believe it's

out there, that there's one person who will be our perfect match. So we keep looking, keep believing it can happen in seven minutes or seven hours or seven days. If it doesn't, we walk away, never knowing whether we've left behind what we were looking for all along.

True Leve doesn't happen in an instant. It's where we find ourselves after we have learned how to be someone's friend even on days when we aren't feeling particularly friendly. It comes to us after we have learned to be

kind in the face of unkindness. It is our reward for loyalty and patience, respect and understanding.

Most importantly, True Love is not what we find in the beginning, but what we discover in the end.

Is it possible to find a life partner in a first glance or a first kins, on a speed date? Of course it is.

Finding out whether that love is true takes time. How long, I don't know.

But I'm guessing a lot longer

Joni Hubred is editor of the Farmington Observer and would enjoy hearing reactions from anyone brave enough to try the Seven Minute Date. Contact her at (248) 477-5450; by mail at 33411 Grand River, Farmington 48335; or email to jhubred@oe.homecomm.net. You can learn more about "speed dating" at www. quickdateinfo.com

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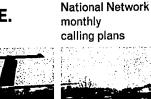
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